

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 27, 2006. Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 11, 13 to 16 and 18 to 26 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 12 and 17 having been cancelled, and Claims 23 to 26 having been newly added. Claims 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 and 20 to 22 have been amended, and Claims 2, 7, 13 and 18 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 7 to 10, 13 and 18 to 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. Claims 2, 7, 13 and 18 have been rewritten into independent form, but some changes have been made from the original claim language. However, each of Claims 2, 7, 13 and 18 are still believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness.

Regarding Claims 4 and 15, it was alleged that the phrase “precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium” is vague and unclear. The amendments to Claims 4 and 15 are seen to address this matter.

In addition, it was alleged that Claims 6 and 17 are inconsistent with claims from which they depend, namely Claims 3 and 14, respectively. Claims 6 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0188199 (Tadano). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Among its many features, the invention of independent Claim 2 as amended provides that (i) the control unit is adapted to control the information reading unit to read predetermined information from the portable storage medium, to store the read predetermined information in the storage unit, and to preclude from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area, and (ii) the control unit is adapted to control the information writing unit to write the predetermined information stored in the storage unit into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area. The applied reference of Tadano is not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Allowance of Claim 2 is therefore respectfully requested.

Among its many features, the invention of independent Claim 7 as amended provides for (i) an administration unit adapted to administrate specific information, stored in the portable storage medium, for specifying the portable storage medium, (ii) a judgment unit adapted to judge whether or not the specific information read from the portable storage medium by the information reading unit matches with the specific information administrated by the administration unit, (iii) wherein the control unit is adapted to control the information reading unit to preclude from reading predetermined information stored in

the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area and it is judged by the judgment unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administered by the administration unit. The applied reference of Tadano is not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Allowance of Claim 7 is therefore respectfully requested.

Among its many features, the invention of independent Claim 13 as amended provides for (i) a storage step of reading predetermined information from the portable storage medium and storing the read predetermined information in another storage medium different from the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area, (ii) wherein the information reading step precludes from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area, and (iii) the information writing step writes the predetermined information stored in the storage medium into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area. The applied reference of Tadano is not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Allowance of Claim 13 is therefore respectfully requested.

Among its many features, the invention of independent Claim 18 as amended provides for (i) a judgment step of judging whether or not specific information read from the portable storage medium in the information reading step matches with specific information administered in another storage medium, (ii) wherein the information reading step precludes from reading predetermined information stored in the portable


storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area and it is judged in the judgement step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium. The applied reference of Tadano is not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Allowance of Claim 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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